

400,000 students in Nevada, and to think they selected that man as the Principal of the Year is quite an honor. The principal is Michael O'Dowd. We had a longtime retired judge with whom I practiced law in the same community for a number of years, Gerry Hardcastle.

But the reason I mention this, there was a man there who introduced me to his son—a good-looking young man. His father was there to tell me about a new treatment they have developed for congenital clubfoot. In years past, the only way to handle that situation was with surgery. Now they have a new method. He had his boy there. His boy plays basketball. His boy can do anything he wants. And they have done this with no surgery. They now have new treatment for this. It is not surgical. In other countries, people spend the rest of their lives with their feet upside down unless there is surgery, and it is so difficult to do. So that is why health care is important.

This is one minor example of how we are advancing in health care, and we have to make sure health care is affordable to the American people. Our health care costs are more than 2½ times that of Japan. Yet the health care is not as good here as in Japan.

I look forward to sending that bill on to the Congressional Budget Office. I had spoken to the Republican leader yesterday. We are going to make sure Senators have plenty of opportunity to look at this bill once we get it back. We are concerned about quality, not quantity—well, we are interested in quality, not how fast we can move this. We want to move it as quickly as we can, as expeditiously as we can, but we want to do it as well as we can. So I look forward to working with the Republican leader to have a good debate on this matter and have health care for all Americans.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that our time for morning business not start until the quorum is called off.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate sharing the floor with the senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR.

I come to the floor regularly and share letters from voters and constituents and citizens around my State, around Ohio, people from Kent and Warren and Mansfield and Zanesville and Chillicothe. We all get these letters. I know the Acting President pro tempore gets them from Arkansas and Senator KLOBUCHAR gets them from Minnesota—letters from people who generally, 2 years ago, a year ago, if you asked them, they would have said they were satisfied with their insurance, but then something happened: They had a child born with an illness and the insurance company cut them off because the child had a preexisting condition or someone got very sick, they thought they had good insurance, but the insurance company canceled them because the cost was so high for their illness. A lot of these letters also come from people who lost their job. They are 59, 60, 61 years old, and they pray to God they will be able to get through the next 3, 4, 5 years until they are Medicare eligible so they will have a strong government health care plan—Medicare—to insure them the rest of their lives, so they can get the kind of health care they, as American citizens, should be entitled to.

So let me share three or four letters, and then I will turn the floor over to Senator KLOBUCHAR.

Allison from Hamilton County, in southwest Ohio, the Cincinnati area, writes:

In June, I was taken to the hospital for suspected ruptured appendix. I was admitted and stayed for 24 hours. Currently, my hospital expenses are at \$9000. Each day it seems like another bill comes to my home.

Last year, I had a part time job while going to school full-time and earned \$7000. I completed my coursework and began looking for full time work last month in this tough economy.

I believe that the health care program being discussed will help families like mine.

Allison is exactly right. Think about this. This woman was in college. She was working. She is doing everything we ask in this country. She was in college full time. She was working a part-time job. She was working hard. She lost her insurance. She does not have insurance because of her age. So what is going to happen to her? She is going to face a workplace that is not very embracing right now, with not a lot of opportunity, and have these kinds of costs already piling up—possibly student loans also.

What our bill will do is simply say that anybody can stay in their parent's

health plan up to the age of 26. That will make a difference for people such as Allison.

Greg from Shelby County, in western Ohio, the Sidney area of the State, writes:

Please keep up the fight for healthcare reform. We have a 23-year-old daughter who just graduated from college and has been consistently denied health insurance because of a pre-existing condition.

Her condition only requires maintenance medication but she is evidently considered "too much of a risk" to insure.

We know that if opponents of health reform had a loved one being denied health insurance they [might] not be so against it.

Please, please keep fighting and make sure to adopt legislation to get coverage for all Americans.

Greg and his daughter are victims again of a system that is malfunctioning. Too many times, in too many cases, people who thought they had decent insurance—their daughter is 23. She cannot stay on her parent's plan because of that. Our bill will allow her to. Our bill will give his daughter the opportunity to go into the insurance exchange—to pick Aetna or Blue Cross or WellPoint or another insurance company or pick a public option—a public option—that will keep the insurance companies honest, that will compete with the insurance companies and help bring costs down.

There are two more letters. I have a letter from Stephanie from Cincinnati. I will tell her story quickly.

Stephanie traveled all the way from Ohio, along with six other families from around the country, to talk about their health care stories. They are speaking for millions of Americans who can't obtain health insurance or who have coverage but still can't get needed medical services. Stephanie's parents were in an accident that cost her mother her life and left her father in intensive care for 5 weeks. Stephanie had to battle insurance companies constantly to get her father vital treatments for his injuries so he could walk again.

Stephanie's message is simple. She said: I and every other American are not simply claims to be denied.

Think about that. Your mother is killed in a car accident. Your father is in intensive care. What are you doing? You are fighting with insurance companies to cover your father's medical care. What kind of system does that?

Insurance companies don't want to insure you when you are sick. If you are going to be too expensive, they find reasons to deny you care: preexisting condition, discrimination based on disability or gender or age or geography. They don't want to cover you if you are sick, but if you get insurance, then they work to try to deny your claim.

Thirty percent of claims in this country are denied in the first round—30 percent. Some of them get undenied. Some of them get accepted and paid. But the sick person or the sick person's family has to get on the phone day after day and fight with the insurance